



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#11 A/BM
12-5-02

Application of:

Manfred DOMBEK

Appl. No.: 09/773,490

Confirmation No.: 6657

Filed: February 2, 2001

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR MAKING AND
PROCESSING ROD-SHAPED
ARTICLES

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Carlos N. Lopez

Atty. Docket No.: 31512-168231

Customer No.:



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

TO THE MAIL ROOM

DEC-4 2002

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 03 2002

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

In response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

First full paragraph on Page 34:

Fig. 4 shows certain details of an apparatus 1-4 which differs from the apparatus 1-3 primarily in that the bands 18, 62 of Fig. 3 are replaced by a single endless band 76 trained over the pulleys 26, 68 and over three additional pulleys or sheaves 28, 70, 78 which cause the median portion of the upper reach of the band 76 to travel beneath the stationary rolling member 30. The spacing of the groups 6a-6c on the conveyor 10 and of the cigarettes 6 in the

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